

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:957  
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2005  
REVIEW OF DOWRY PROHIBITION ACT  
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Union Government has received suggestions from various women organizations for reviewing the Dowry Prohibition Act to make its provisions more stringent and effective;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government to raise the status of women in the country?

**Answer**

MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH)

- (a)&(b) The National Commission for Women held a National Convension on 22.11.2005 on the review of Dowry Prohibition Act, which was attended by various women's organizations.
- (c) For raising the overall status of women and to mainstream them into the national development process, the Government has taken a number of steps. These include:
  - (i) adoption o f the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001 with the objective to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women in all spheres;
  - (ii) implementation of women empowerment and support services schemes like Swayamsidha, Swa-shakti, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP), Swawlamban, Awareness Generation Programme, Condensed Courses of Education for Women, Hostels for Working Women, Swadhar, Short Stay Homes for Women and Girls etc.
  - (iii) institutional support through National Commission for Women and Central Social Welfare Board
  - (iv) legislative measures like enactment of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and amendment in women related laws to make them gender just such as amendment in the Hindu Succession Act, 1959 to provide the right of inheritance to women. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 provides that atleast one-third o f the beneficiaries shall b e women who have registered and requested for work under this Act.